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Solid Waste  
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Response (5105)

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[www.epa.gov/brownfields/](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/)



# EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

*South Central Regional Council of Governments, CT*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

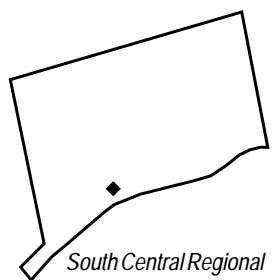
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace) to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years) to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

## BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. The SCRCOG represents 500,000 people in 15 towns and cities in south central Connecticut. The SCRCOG and its associated economic development partner, the Regional Growth Partnership, serve as an intermediary between their member municipalities and the state. The Quinnipiac River corridor, one of the most urbanized and industrial areas of the country, is targeted for the Pilot. The corridor includes parts of three municipalities—New Haven, North Haven, and Hamden—with a combined population of 198,547. The corridor is characterized by industrial properties with known or suspected contamination from major spills, waste lagoons, and landfills.

The region has suffered economically due to the decline of a once thriving manufacturing corridor along the Quinnipiac River in the 1970s and 1980s, and recovery has been slow. Economic recovery in Connecticut lags behind most other states in the nation. Of the three municipalities targeted for the Pilot, New Haven has the highest poverty rate (21.3

## PILOT SNAPSHOT



*South Central Regional  
Council of Governments,  
Connecticut*

**Date of Announcement:**  
April 2001

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot will target sites in the Quinnipiac River corridor, which is economically distressed due to a decline in manufacturing during the 1970s and 1980s.

### Contacts:

Regional Growth Partnership  
(203) 821-3682

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 1  
(617) 918-1424

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflf/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

percent), unemployment (4 percent), and minority populations (58 percent). New Haven also is a Federal Enterprise Community and Empowerment Zone. Hamden and New Haven are state-designated distressed municipalities, and, therefore, are eligible for economic redevelopment benefits from the State of Connecticut.

## **OBJECTIVES**

SCRCOG's overall objective is to apply a multi-jurisdictional planning approach to the selection, assessment, cleanup, and reuse of properties served by existing infrastructure in the corridor. As part of SCRCOG's redevelopment planning, the Pilot will define contamination problems at properties to be selected in the three municipalities and reach out to stakeholders to ensure community input in the decision-making process.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Identifying and prioritizing sites for redevelopment through a Project Advisory Committee, whose members represent municipal governments and the general community;
- Conducting environmental site assessments on selected properties; and
- Involving the communities affected by the sites in decision-making.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*